

**CITY OF HOMER
ALASKA**

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

**SEA OTTER AWARENESS WEEK
SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 1, 2011**

WHEREAS, The sea otter is a symbol of wilderness, an integral part of Alaska's natural ecosystem, and serves as an indicator for the overall health of Alaska's near shore marine ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, A growing awareness of the benefits of maintaining the health of the near shore marine ecosystem has raised public interest in the sea otter; and

WHEREAS, Disease from a variety of sources, including land-based biological pathogens, accounts for approximately 40% of the mortality for sea otters in a given year; and

WHEREAS, Sea otters play a critical role in the marine ecosystem as a keystone species. They promote a healthy kelp forest that, in turn, supports thousands of organisms; and

WHEREAS, Sea otters are now only found off the coast of Japan (less than six), Russia, Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, and California; and

WHEREAS, The survival of the sea otter remains dependent upon continued public support and increased understanding of the essential role sea otters play in nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James C. Hornaday, Mayor of the City of Homer do hereby proclaim September 25 through October 1, 2011 as:

SEA OTTER AWARENESS WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREIN, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Homer, Alaska, to be affixed this 12th day of September, 2011.

CITY OF HOMER

JAMES C. HORNADAY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK